

For Immediate Release
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OXENDINE: LIFE COMPANY TO REFUND \$1.3 MILLION IN PREMIUMS TO SOLDIERS

Atlanta - Insurance Commissioner John W. Oxendine said as a result of an investigation by his office, American Amicable Life Insurance Company of Texas will refund \$1.3 million in life insurance premiums paid by certain active-duty soldiers trained at Ft. Benning.

The company agreed to issue refunds to soldiers at Ft. Benning who were solicited and sold term life insurance policies while they were in a training brigade during the year 2002. It is estimated that 901 soldiers will be eligible for the current round of refunds. Refunds will include all sales of the "Horizon Life" product, including lapsed or terminated policies as well as those currently in force. The amount of each refund will vary depending on how much the soldier agreed to pay for insurance plus any additional funds accumulated under the policy.

"These refunds will not get the company off the hook with my office," Oxendine said. "Our investigation will continue, and will address other concerns with sales practices by this company at Ft. Benning and at other Georgia military bases. There is also the issue of appropriate punishment, and making sure that this does not happen again."

American Amicable will notify eligible soldiers by mailing a notice to the permanent residence listed on their application. Soldiers will be required to submit an affidavit that affirms that the policy was sold while the soldier was in basic training. The soldier will have 180 days from the date of mailing to return the request for refund, with affidavit, to the company. If the soldier is outside of the continental US, that period will be suspended during the time the soldier is away.

Oxendine emphasized that American Amicable will include anyone who comes forward and meets the above stated criteria for a refund, even if they failed to receive a formal notice from the company. Consumers may contact Commissioner Oxendine's Consumer Services Division at **404-656-2070** or toll-free at **1-800-656-2298**, for further information.

Oxendine said the investigation began when allegations surfaced that certain agents of American Amicable, and other affiliated companies, violated various Department of Defense and Georgia Insurance Department regulations by identifying themselves as disinterested financial advisors while selling policies to soldiers in training.